

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00
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FRB-03 XMB-02 OPIC-03 LAB-04 SIL-01 AGRE-00 CU-02
/106 W

-----281401Z 008768 /53

O R 281305Z MAR 77
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AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
USMISSION OECD PARIS
USDEL MTN GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 5047

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EEC, PFOR, CIEC, UNCTAD, PDEU, EAID, JA, ETRD, EIND,
ECIN, ECON, ELAB, EFIN.
SUBJECT: EUROPEAN COUNCIL, MARCH 25-26, 1977: HIGHLIGHTS

SUMMARY. THE MARCH 25-26 EUROPEAN COUNCIL WAS VIEWED BY
ALL PARTICIPANTS AS A USEFUL AND PRODUCTIVE AFFAIR. THE EC
HEADS OF GOVERNMENT SETTLED THE ISSUE OF EC REPRESENTATION AT
THE MAY 7-8 LONDON SUMMIT, REACHED AGREEMENT ON A COMMON FUND
FOR COMMODITIES, AND ISSUED DECLARATIONS ON EC/JAPAN RELATIONS,
THE EC STEEL INDUSTRY, AND THE ECONOMIC SITUATION (ALL REPORTED
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SEPTEL). THEY ALSO TOOK PART IN A COMMEMORATIVE CEREMONY ON
MARCH 25, MARKING THE TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SIGNING
OF THE TREATIES OF ROME. OTHER TOPICS ON THE MEETING AGENDA
ARE DISCUSSED BELOW. END SUMMARY.

1. ENLARGEMENT. THE HEADS OF GOVERNMENT HAD A BRIEF EXCHANGE
OF VIEWS ON EC ENLARGEMENT. UK PRIME MINISTER CALLAGHAN

(THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT) TOLD REPORTERS THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTERS ARE TO DISCUSS THIS TOPIC IN DETAIL DURING THEIR MAY 21-22 LEEDS CASTLE RETREAT. IRISH FOREIGN MINISTER FITZGERALD TOLD REPORTERS THAT HE CONSIDERED THE ENLARGEMENT DISCUSSIONS TO BE ONE OF THE SIGNIFICANT FEATURES OF THE MEETING. HE SAID THERE HAS BEEN A DISCERNIBLE SHIFT FROM ENTHUSIASM TO CAUTION ON THE ENLARGEMENT QUESTION, WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO THE IMPLICATIONS FOR EC DECISION-MAKING, COMMUNITY RESOURCES (SOCIAL AND REGIONAL FUNDS), AND THE COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY.

2. CALLAGHAN VISIT TO WASHINGTON. CALLAGHAN BRIEFED HIS COLLEAGUES ON THE RESULTS OF HIS DISCUSSIONS IN WASHINGTON. ACCORDING TO A UK SPOKESMAN, HE GAVE AN "ENCOURAGING AND REASSURING REPORT." HE SAID THAT PRESIDENT CARTER SUPPORTED EC COHESION AND WANTED THE EC TO BE A STRONG INFLUENCE IN THE WORLD. ON CSCE, THERE WERE NO MAJOR DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE EC AND U.S. LINES, AND, CALLAGHAN SAID, THE U.S. IS KEEN TO WORK CLOSELY WITH THE NINE. ON THE WORLD ECONOMIC SITUATION, CALLAGHAN SAID HE HAD WARNED PRESIDENT CARTER ABOUT ANY SLIDE INTO PROTECTIONISM. ON CIEC, CALLAGHAN SAID POSITIONS WERE CLOSE, AND THERE WAS NO DANGER OF A SERIOUS SPLIT.

3. FUNCTIONING OF THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL. CALLAGHAN TOLD REPORTERS THAT DISCUSSION OF THE VARIOUS CURRENT PROPOSALS ON THE REORGANIZATION OF THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL HAD BEEN BRIEF. THE UK HAD IMPLEMENTED FOR THIS EUROPEAN COUNCIL WHAT IT FELT WAS A SATISFACTORY MECHANISM FOR HANDLING SUCH CONFIDENTIAL

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MEETINGS, AND RESULTS SEEMED TO BE GOOD. CALLAGHAN SAID THE FOREIGN MINISTERS WILL BE ASKED TO FOLLOW UP ON THESE DISCUSSIONS.

4. EUROPEAN CULTURAL FOUNDATION. THE HEADS OF GOVERNMENT ASKED FOR A REPORT FROM THE COMMISSION ON THE POSSIBLE ESTABLISHMENT OF A EUROPEAN CULTURAL FOUNDATION, AS RECOMMENDED IN THE TINDEMANS REPORT. GARDNER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, MEETINGS, MEETING REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977ROME05047
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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Format: TEL
From: ROME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770315/aaaaamxl.tel
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Litigation Code IDs:
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Office: ACTION EUR
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Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
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Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2976240
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EUROPEAN COUNCIL, MARCH 25-26, 1977: HIGHLIGHTS SUMMARY. THE MARCH 25-26 EUROPEAN COUNCIL WAS VIEWED BY ALL PARTICIPANTS AS A USEFUL AND PRODUCTIVE AFFAIR
TAGS: PFOR, PDEV, EAID, ETRD, EIND, JA, EEC, UNCTAD, CIEC
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/4368a1b0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009